

October, 1946.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH TO
THE BEAMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THE
YEAR 1945, INCLUDING STATISTICS FOR THE PERIOD
1938 - 1945.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health	Adam Armit, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor	C.C. Rundle, A.R.S.I. M.S.I.A.
Veterinary Surgeon (Part-time)	K.I. Marshall, M.R.C.V.S.
Clerk to the Medical Officer	Miss A.M. Johnson.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	58,693
Registrar General's estimate of Population	7,519
No. of inhabited houses (according to Rate Books) at end of 1945	2,523
Rateable Value	£37,851
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£158.11.7.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
All births	67	55	
Legitimate	55	50	Birth Rate per 1000 resident
Illegitimate	12	5	population = 16.22
Total births	122		

<u>Still Births</u>		
All still births -	3	
Legitimate -	2	Still birth rate per 1000 resident
Illegitimate -	1	population = 0.39
Total Still Births ...	3	

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
Total	2	2	
Legitimate	1	2	Death rate all Infants per 1000
Illegitimate	1	-	notified births = 32.79

Deaths from Puerperal Causes ... Nil.

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1000 live and still births ... Nil.

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
Total Deaths	(54	34)	Death rate per 1000 estimated resident
	= 88		population = 11.70.



CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES.

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945. M.	1945. F.
1. Typhoid & Paratyphoid.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3. Scarlet Fever.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
4. Whooping Cough.....	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5. Diphtheria.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	2	2	3	2	3	1	1	2	1
7. Other forms Tuberculosis.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
8. Syphilitic Diseases.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
9. Influenza.....	3	2	9	3	2	5	5	2	1
10. Measles.....	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1
11. Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio Encephalitis.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
12. Acute Inf. Encephalitis.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
13. Cancer of Buc:Cav: & Oesoph(M) Uterus (F).....	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1
14. Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum.....	1	1	5	1	3	3	3	1	1
15. Cancer of Breast.....	1	1	4	1	3	3	2	1	1
16. Cancer of all other sites.....	16	20	10	16	9	10	13	7	3
17. Diabetes.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
18. Intracranial Vascular Lesion.....	7	27	14	10	9	11	17	1	3
19. Heart Disease.....	29	27	37	22	15	23	27	10	15
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System.....	4	4	1	2	1	1	3	4	1
21. Bronchitis.....	1	5	5	5	5	3	4	2	1
22. Pneumonia.....	2	2	4	2	1	1	2	1	1
23. Other Respiratory Diseases.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
24. Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years).....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
26. Appendicitis.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
27. Other Digestive Diseases.....	4	2	1	3	2	3	1	2	2
28. Nephritis.....	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	3	2
29. Puerperal & Post Abortive Sepsis.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
30. Other Maternal Causes.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
31. Premature Birth.....	6	4	4	4	3	2	6	1	1
32. Con.Mal.Birth Injury. Infant Dis.....	1	3	3	5	1	1	1	1	1
33. Suicide.....	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
34. Road Traffic Accidents.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
35. Other Violent Causes.....	4	1	7	1	4	2	4	1	1
36. All Other Causes.....	14	35	18	23	9	31	22	1	2
TOTALS.....	102	110	137	106	87	101	122	54	37



OTHER VITAL STATISTICS.

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Population	7,635	7,624	7,939	8,531	8,293	8,038	7,646	7,519
Rateable Value	£29603	£30572	£30762	£35769	£55070	£27312	£37443	£57851
Estimated Produce of a Penny Rate.....	£131	£133	£135	£159	£155	£158	£167	£159
BIRTHS:-								
Live Births	126	114	114	137	123	124	146	122
Legitimate.....	115	108	110	128	114	118	134	105
Illegitimate.....	11	6	4	9	9	6	12	17
Still Births.....	3	3	5	5	5	7	1	3
Birth Rate.....	16.5	15.35	14.36	16.06	14.83	15.43	19.1	16.23
Birth Rate(England & Wales).....	15.61	15	14.6	14.20	15.8	16.5	17.6	16.1
DEATHS:-								
Total Deaths.....	102	110	137	106	87	101	122	88
Death Rate.....	13.36	11.67	14.33	12.43	10.49	12.6	15.83	11.70
Death Rate (England & Wales).....	11.6	12.1	14.3	12.9	11.6	12.1	11.6	11.4
INFANT MORTALITY:-								
Deaths under 1 Year of Age.....	9	3	8	13	2	4	7	4
Infantile Death Rate	71	26.31	66.66	90.28	14.5	32.26	47.9	32.79
Infantile Death Rate(England & Wales)..	53	50	55	59	49	49	46	46
MATERNAL MORTALITY:-								
Maternal Deaths.....	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Maternal Death Rate.....	-	-	-	6.71	-	-	-	-
Maternal Death Rate(England & Wales)..	2.97	2.82	2.16	2.23	2.01	2.29	1.93	1.79

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The Council only own one piped supply, namely in Beaminster Parish. This supply, which is continuously chlorinated, yields approximately 100,000 gallons per day, and serves a population of 1,700. Thirteen samples were taken for analysis and all were satisfactory except three which were investigated and the cause of the contamination eliminated. There are piped supplies in the Villages of Cheddington, Corscombe, Evershot, Melbury Osmond, Halstock, South Perrott and Thorncombe, all privately owned. The remaining Villages depend upon wells. Although the Council have had their scheme ready for a piped supply to the whole of the District as put forward by Messrs. Lemon and Blizzard for nearly a year, no progress towards the formation of a Joint Water Committee for West Dorset has been made up to the end of this year. As soon as the other Authorities, namely Bridport Borough and Bridport Rural District, are ready with their schemes, a Joint Water Committee can be set up to discuss the whole question of a comprehensive scheme and the formation of a Joint Water Board to take over the responsibility of supplying water to West Dorset. In the meantime, samples from the proposed source have been taken and have proved satisfactory. Altogether thirty six water samples have been taken for analysis from various other sources in the District.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Apart from a few septic tanks, the rivers and streams act as the sewers of the District, resulting in gross pollution of all these water courses. This is especially so at Beaminster, where the river Brit is very foul. Messrs. Lemon and Blizzard, Chartered Civil Engineers and Surveyors, issued a preliminary report on Sewerage and Sewage Disposal, covering all the Villages and classifying them according to their urgency, i.e. whether they cause, or are likely to cause in the near future, serious pollution or local nuisance. In Class I are those which should be dealt with in the early post war years. This group includes the Parishes of Beaminster, Netherbury, Broadwindsor and Hooke. Class II to be dealt with over a period of say five years, while Class III could be postponed for say ten years or longer.

Rodent Control.

Under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, the Council accepted Delegated Powers from the County Council. As the latter was responsible for Rodent Control in over 90% of the area, the Rural Council asked the County Council to take back the Delegated Powers. This was refused, but an agreement was made whereby the County Council act as Agents for the District Council in Rodent Control for the area over which the District Council is responsible.

Sanitary Inspections.

No. of Inspections	1806	(Including all Inspections)	
No. of Informal Notices	166	No. complied with	134
No. of Statutory Notices	2	No. complied with	Nil.

Allocation of Inspections.

Shops	14	Refuse and Salvage	82
Factories	9	Nuisances - General	51
Foodstuffs	28	Building Byelaws and	
Drains	93	Civil Building Control	260.
Housing	1075	Petrol Storage	4
Milk and Dairies	43	Water Supplies	116
Infectious Diseases	32	Knackers Yard	1.

Total ... 1806.

Cowsheds and Dairies.

No. of persons on Register...	465	No. of Dairy Farms etc. on Register ...	464
No. of Dairy Farms inspected.	32	No. of Inspections ...	43
No. of Notices served ...	7	No. complied with ...	10
No. of Milk Sheds inspected..	1	No. of Inspections ...	1
No. of Notices ...	Nil	No. complied with ...	Nil.

A sufficient and wholesome water supply is essential for a good milk supply. The proposed comprehensive water scheme should help the milk industry in the whole of the Rural District, where at present the majority of Dairies have to depend on shallow wells which are so liable to contamination and drying up.

Meat Inspection.

All the slaughtering for West Dorset takes place at a Slaughter House in the Bridport Rural District, where a Veterinary Surgeon, appointed by the four Councils concerned, is responsible for the inspection of carcasses on every day that slaughtering takes place.

Food and Drugs.

The following foodstuffs were condemned :-

Fish	97 lbs	Biscuits	3 lbs
Oranges	56 lbs	Cheese	19 lbs
Bacon	37 lbs	Various	93 tins.

HOUSING.

No. of dwelling houses inspected	873	No. of Inspections	1075
No. unfit for human habitation	154	No. not reasonably fit	472
No. of houses in respect of which Notices served under P.H.A.	57	(55 Informal, 2 Formal)	
No. of houses in which defects remedied by the owner after Informal Notice			39
Total no. of new houses erected			Nil
No. of houses owned by L.A.			90
Approximate number of working class houses in District			2186.

A Preliminary Housing Survey was commenced with a view to finding out the condition of the houses which will be classified as follows :-

1. Satisfactory or with minor defects only.
2. Requiring repair, structural alterations or improvements.
3. Appropriate for re-conditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act.
4. Houses requiring demolition.

A temporary Sanitary Inspector has been appointed to help in this survey, which when finished, will be followed by a detailed house inspection.

The Council own housing sites in the following Parishes, in which for their immediate Post War Housing Programme, they intend to build the following number of houses:-

Netherbury (North Bowood 2, Salway Ash 2), Thorncombe 8, Marshwood 2, Melbury Osmond 4, Stoke Abbott 6, Beaminster 34, Evershot 4, Mosterton 2, Corscombe 4, Halstock 8.

In October the Ministry of Health gave sanction for tenders to be invited for the erection of ten houses viz:- Stoke Abbot 6, North Bowood 2 and Salway Ash 2.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1945.

DISEASE	Total		Cases at all Ages. Year.											Total Cases Deaths in	
	Cases at	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & Total removed to Hosp. of per Over Deaths. Hosp. in sons belong District. ing to Dis.		
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	-	3
Scarlet Fever	5	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	2	1	1	3	4
Non-Pulmonary T.B.	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Measles	213	7	10	16	14	15	104	26	16	1	3	1	-	-	3
Whooping Cough	9	-	4	2	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	250	8	14	18	14	16	112	28	18	8	8	4	2	3	19

There was an outbreak of Measles from May until July when 213 cases were notified, 49% being in the 5 - 10 years age group. There were no deaths from the disease. No cases of Diphtheria have occurred during the past two years.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1938 - 1945.

Disease.	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945.
	Cases:Dths.	Cases:Dths.	Cases:Dths.	Cases:Dths.	Cases:Dths.	Cases:Dths.	Cases:Dths.	Cases:Dths.
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	6	1 2	3	5	1	1	-	-
Erysipelas	4	5	4	1	5	7	6	1 5
Scarlet Fever	17	6	4	8	16	1 28	2	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	2	1	-	3	1	-
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	5	1	-	-	3	3
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pneumonia	4	3	8	1 2	9	2	1 4	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	8	2 3	7 3	11 2	5 3	9 1	6 1	9 3
Non-Pulmonary T.B.	3	1	2	2	1	3	4	3
Measles	Not known	1	60	277	3 32	36	9	213
Whooping Cough	Not known	Not known	12	60	1	31	68	9
TOTAL	46	4 21	2 108	6 370	7 72	4 120	3 107	7 250

TUBERCULOSIS.New Cases and Mortality during 1945.

<u>Age Periods.</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
0 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15- 25	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & Over	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTALS...	5	4	3	-	3	-	-	-

Particulars of deaths as follows :-

M.	41 years.	Railway Clerk.	Duration of Disease	-	3 years.
M.	39 "	Gardener.	" "	"	2 years.
M.	67 "	Shepherd.	" "	"	1 year.

New Cases and Mortality 1938 - 1945.

	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary .</u>		<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
1938	4	4	1	2	1	1	1	-
1939	1	2	1	1	2	-	-	-
1940	4	4	2	-	2	1	-	-
1941	1	3	1	-	1	1	-	1
1942	6	5	1	1	1	2	-	-
1943	5	4	1	2	1	-	1	-
1944	4	2	2	2	1	-	-	1
1945	5	4	3	-	3	-	-	-
TOTALS...	30	28	12	8	12	5	2	2

